

MAINE FARMER

AND JOURNAL OF THE USEFUL ARTS.

BY WILLIAM NOYES & CO.]

"Our Home, Our Country, and Our Brother Man."

[E. HOLMES, Editor.]

Vol. IV.

Winthrop, (Maine,) Friday, May 20, 1836.

No. 16.

The Maine Farmer
IS ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.
TERMS.—Price \$2 per annum if paid in advance,
\$2.50 if payment is delayed beyond the year.
No paper will be discontinued at any time, without
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THE FARMER.

WINTHROP, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 20, 1836.

REPORT

Of the Trustees of the Ken. Co. Ag. Society,
at their Annual meeting, March, 1836.

MR. PRESIDENT, and Gentlemen of the Kennebec
County Agricultural Society,

It is pleasant for individuals, associated as we
are, for the purpose of promoting an art so important
to society, to find that our labors are not in
vain, and that so good a share of success follows
our exertions. The cause of Agriculture is gaining
friends and advocates in our State. Kindred
Societies are starting up in other Counties and
challenging peaceful and honorable competition
in well doing. The State has generously extended
the time of contributing its pecuniary aid,
five years longer, and the people generally are beginning
to study improvement in the arts of culture
and husbandry. It should be the object and
pursuit of every people, to produce as many articles
for their own consumption from their own
soil as possible, consistent with profit and economy.

Among the many articles of culture which have
been recommended to the farmers of this State
and which have had their advocates is Hemp. It
will be recollected that a few years ago, considerable
exertion was made to introduce the culture and
the manufacture of Hemp in Maine.

It was, however, not found to be quite so lucrative
a business as was anticipated, and we believe
is now abandoned entirely. It may be best that it
should be so, but we confess that we should be
better satisfied that we could not advantageously
cultivate and manufacture this article if we had
better testimony than we now have, that the experiment
had had a fair trial. Perhaps circumstances arising
from causes altogether foreign to the subject
and wholly unconnected with the business itself,
have been brought to bear upon it, and to put
it down, when, when under different circumstances,
the same exertions would have been crowned
with complete success. We are inclined to think
the business has not had a fair trial, and with this
expression of doubt we will leave it and turn to
another nearly allied to it.

We refer to the cultivation of Flax and the
manufacture of Linens. We cannot now tell what
amount of Linens are imported into the United
States from Ireland and Holland.

But it must be an immense amount, for we are
almost wholly dependent upon these two countries
for this article.

Why is this? Have not the energy and enterprise
of the sons of New England, sufficient strength
to overcome the obstacles which are supposed
to be in the way of the successful culture of
flax and the manufacture of linens? One reason
undoubtedly is, that no machinery has yet been
invented by which flax could be spun and made
into thread for the purposes of the loom, and that
cotton, being almost wholly manufactured by
water power, can be afforded so much cheaper,
that it has superseded the use of Linen. This
may be true to a certain degree. But still large
quantities are used, and used too from foreign
manufactories.

We have been informed that machinery has
at length been invented, which will spin this
fibre as well as cotton can be spun. If this
should prove to be the case, the fault must
depend partly upon our farmers if the raw
material is not supplied in sufficient quantities
to reduce the importation from abroad.

We are aware that there is a prejudice
against the culture of flax, because, in the first
place, it is thought to be not in demand, and
in the next place supposed to be an exhausting
and unprofitable crop.

But perhaps the best method of culture has
not yet been adopted. Some of our farmers we
know have, and do cultivate it successfully and
profitably, and we beg leave to solicit the
attention of the Society to a recital of the
experience of a person, who has for fifty years
perhaps, successfully and practically cultivated
the soil in a neighboring town (Mr. ———
Bradford of Turner, Oxford County.) His mode
is, to sow an acre every year, upon ground
well prepared for the crop. Upon this one
acre he sows one bushel of seed, which he
considers sufficient; from this bushel he has
often taken a crop which afforded him 400 lbs.
of dressed flax, and 18 bushels of seed. From
his experience, he finds that the crop, from
this amount of seed sown is as little liable to
lodge and be beaten by winds as an ordinary
crop of grain. The straw may be somewhat
coarser than if a greater quantity was sowed,
but the fibre need not be any coarser if it
be properly managed.

The Irish frequently sow five or six bushels
of seed to the acre for a crop of fibre; but,
altho' they get a fine straw, they can get no
seed, and hence lose one very important part
of the crop. The gentleman above named
manages his flax somewhat differently from
what many others do. He observes that he
wants as dry and clear weather to cure his
flax as he does his grain. When first pulled,
he spreads it thin and the moment it is
thoroughly dry he houses it carefully, in a
situation where it cannot be wetted, and it
is then in a proper condition to get out.

After it is out, it is necessary that it
should be passed through several hatchels of
different kinds of fineness, according to the
quality of fibre that you wish. It has been
asserted by some one, that in other countries
the business of hatchelling flax is a distinct
trade or art, and pursued by those who do
nothing else for a living. They have hatchels

of at least seven degrees of fineness, the last
kind being wire of the size of a common
knitting needle and set proportionably thick.
If this be a fact there probably would not be
any need of sowing too much seed to the
acre for the purpose of obtaining a fine
straw, with the view of also obtaining a fine
fibre. And if the mode of managing as
above stated, should prove better, than the
slow and tedious process of water rotting or
even dew rotting, it will do away a material
objection to its culture. We think the
subject worthy of some little consideration
by the members of this Society, and by the
Agricultural community generally. If a
farmer can manage to sufficiently manure an
acre of ground, and put it in the proper
tilth for this crop—and very few there are,
amongst us, but what can, and if they raise
an hundred weight only of this article the
total amount raised in Maine will be no
small quantity, and save a great amount of
capital from going out of the country into
foreign coffers. If it should also prove true
that machinery can be brought into action
sufficiently cheap to compete with the low
price of labor in Ireland and Holland, New
England may thus add another staple
production to what she now has, and
perhaps manufacture her own linens as well
as cottons and woollens.

The subject of the culture of exhausting
crops very naturally turns our attention to
some of the means of renovating the soil by
the addition of manures, or some substance
which shall make up the deficiency occasioned
by the crop taken off. Our farmers have
most generally used animal manures for this
purpose. This kind of manure is undoubtedly
the most active renovator that can be used,
but this alone is not all that is often wanted.
Nature has ordained that certain mineral
substances should make up what is called
soils, and that a variation of these substances,
either in kind or quantity, should make or
constitute the different soils. And further,
we find that peculiar kinds of plants prefer
peculiar kind of soils. Hence mineral matters
also constitute manures, and are often times
as much or more needed than animal matters.
Among these substances marl holds an
important rank. But what is marl? The best
marl is made up of clay and a portion of lime,
but some marls are made almost wholly of a
kind of brittle or friable clay.

There can be no doubt that marl of the
latter kind exists in abundance in many parts
of this country, and would be of essential
service if dug out of its resting place and
applied to many soils. Some kinds of clay
are filled with abundance of carbonaceous
matter which would render them valuable
as manures upon light sandy or porous
soils. Such kinds of clay or marl we know
exist in this county, and in this vicinity.
Experiments ought to be instituted to test
their value.

Another kind of manure, though perhaps
not strictly mineral is Peat.—It is found in
bogs and low lands and is made up of what
appears to be vegetable roots or fibres
interspersed with or running through
clayey matter. Now there cannot be a shadow
of doubt that Peat enough can be

found in our neighborhoods. We have bogs and swamps and low lands enough, and certainly it is worth the while to examine some of them, in order to see if peat or some other valuable article, similar in its nature, cannot be found, by which the farmer can be accommodated with a substance which may be used as a manure to renovate his fields and arable lots, and profit by their application.

There is an article used on our sea shores, or rather found on our sea shores, which have been found to be an excellent manure, called muscle beds. We have been informed by a gentleman who owns a farm on Pemaquid Point, (Mr. Macomber,) that he has used this substance with success upon his farm in the culture of wheat, and that he has contracted to deliver several tons to a person at Bowdoinham for manure. The farmers on our river can certainly make trial of this article at a very reasonable rate, and we would suggest to them the propriety of making the experiment.

But cannot the farmer of the interior profit also by the hint in a small way at least? What are these beds composed of? Of sea-sand or mud wet by salt water—of shells filled with mucilaginous matter—of sea weeds and decaying animal matter. The shells are principally made up of carbonate of lime. Could not a compost heap be formed near the sink drain or in some other convenient spot in which might be thrown the refuse matter which accumulates—also lime and vegetable matter as weeds, &c. and some salt thrown in to make out the complement of materials? There can be little doubt that such an admixture of matters would possess fertilizing properties to a high degree.*

There is another mode of fertilizing land but very little used, but nevertheless one of great utility in many places. It is Irrigation or the use of water as applied in a proper manner. Two ways or methods are in use. One by flowing and laying the water upon the whole surface and draining again at pleasure. The other is by conducting streams from certain reservoirs around and about declivities, so that it shall trickle along over a longer extent of surface than it would, if suffered to soak into the soil or go down and off quickly by a straight and steep channel. Many of our hilly farms, and they are not few in this country, might be essentially benefitted in this manner. The reasons of such a result are evident. Water does contain dissolved in it certain substances which constitute the food of vegetables, and is the only channel by which these same substances can be taken into the plant. The greater range therefore you can give this water, and the greater number of roots you can bring it in contact with, the more

* So valuable have the marl beds in New Jersey become from the successful use of them in Agriculture, and the increased call for them, that two railroads are now being built from them to different points on navigable waters, with a capital of \$500,000 in order to transport the marl to different sections of the country. At present it is hauled 20 miles and sold at 12 1-2 cents per bushel.—Twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre are used. One hundred parts of this marl yielded Dr. Rogers by analysis the following ingredients.

Silica (pure flint)	43.40
Oxide of iron	21.60
Alumina (pure clay)	6.40
Lime	10.40
Potash	14.48
Water	4.40

The main fertilizing properties must be the lime and the potash, and it is not often that marl contains so much of any of it. Now could not a compost like the above be very easily made?

benefit you will derive from it.

Would it not be well for the Society to offer a premium or a series of premiums for the best conducted experiments on this kind of irrigation. The plan or mode of applying the water to be examined by a committee for the purpose, and the results detailed by the experimenter and attested to under oath if thought necessary?

Leaving these subjects for your consideration, permit us to suggest an alteration, or an amendment in the mode of bestowing premiums or rewards to competitors. It is well known to you that our funds are small, and that many of our premiums can be little better than compliments, or rather certificates of merit to those who obtain them. A few prize the money which they obtain higher than any thing else, but by far the greatest number are anxious to obtain the premium not for its value in dollars and cents, but as a certificate from the Society that they have either succeeded in a favorite project, or excelled in an honorable pursuit. From the lowness of our funds it is impossible for us to give as many premiums as we desire, and many who are really deserving, are compelled to go away without even the poor reward of a visible compliment for their labor or ingenuity.

Now we are inclined to think that the system of distributing MEDALS to many competitors, would obviate this trouble. The first cost of obtaining dies to strike off these medals might be considerable, but after they were obtained we should be able to distribute nearly as much premium money as we now do, and also a number of medals which would answer the same purpose as many of our small premiums, and be thrice more prized by those who receive them. It would be a standing certificate, a memento of success, and be kept and handed down from father to son, and be a stimulus to every one of them, while a dollar if obtained for the same object, would be soon spent and the source from which it was received and the cause of its reception be forgotten.

SAM'L P. BENSON, }
JAMES PAGE, } Trustees.
EZEKIEL HOLMES, }

For the Maine Farmer.

"What Farmers may be."

MR. HOLMES:—Your interesting correspondent, "J. H. J." under the above title, in the last Farmer, lays down three distinct propositions, showing in substance that Farmers may be the most learned, and the most influential class of men in the world. Under each proposition he has adduced several very good reasons in support of them, and I can most cheerfully assent to all that he has said upon the subject. But while I am so ready to give in my adhesion to his doctrine, I am inclined to think he will find it not an easy task to induce any considerable portion of them to carry out in practice, what he has so correctly laid down in theory.

The occupation of a Farmer certainly requires the "most vigorous exercise of the physical powers of the body," and if you cannot induce a man to adopt that system of labor, which shall render the exercise of these powers productive of the greatest amount of ultimate good, you can hardly expect to convince him, that he may become one of the most learned and influential men in the world.

If I may be permitted to advance an opinion I will say that, judging from daily observation, it would seem that many believe the exercise of mental and physical powers have no connection in

the business of husbandry, that our fathers and grand-fathers thought, all that was necessary for mankind to think upon the subject, and that nothing remains for us to do but work, work, work, without even thinking that we have power to think.

Therefore if we would lay a "firm basis on which to build up their minds in wisdom and knowledge," we must first convince them that the course pursued by our fathers and grand-fathers in relation to husbandry, is by no means the best course.

Convince them that in general a small farm is better than a large one.

Convince them that a little, well tilled, is better than much half tilled.

Convince them that two loads of manure is better than one, and every load judiciously applied is worth a silver Dollar.

Convince them that three good Cows are better than half a dozen poor ones, and so of all other stock.

Convince them that raising their own bread stuff and a little to sell, is far better than "going to New York to mill."

Convince them that two blades of grass may easily be made to grow, where only one grew before.

Convince them that experiment is the mother of improvement, and improvement the true source of wealth.

Convince them of these simple TRUTHS, and induce them to practice accordingly, and the work is done.

You will then bring mind and body to act in unison. You will elevate the husbandman to his natural sphere in the scale of existence. You will place him in the road to higher eminence. He will think for himself, he will be learned, he will be wise, he will be wealthy and influential.

CAROLUS.

May 7, 1836.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Letter from a Father, living in the State of N. York, to his Son in Western Pennsylvania. ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

TO MY SON—In a series of letters, claiming to be agricultural, and to contain a general treatise of rural economy, the root husbandry should not be overlooked. By the root husbandry is meant as I understand it the field culture of roots, with intent to provide food for neat cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. The roots principally relied upon for the purpose aforesaid, are potatoes, turneps, ruta бага, mangel wurtzel, carrots and beets. It does not appear that the comparative merits of the roots thus enumerated, have been ascertained to the general satisfaction of the farming community. Some prefer one of them, and some another. No doubt they are all valuable roots, and susceptible of field culture to greater or less degrees of profit, according to congeniality of soil, and other circumstances.

Although it was known here that the root husbandry had succeeded perfectly well in some parts of Europe, especially England and Scotland, and had achieved wonders in accumulating the wealth and resources of those countries, yet it was for a long time doubted whether it would succeed in this country, where the winters are long and severe. By the experiments several enterprising gentlemen in different parts of the country, the question has of late been put to rest—doubts have been removed, and scepticism has yielded to the truth. It is no longer doubted, by those who are competent to judge, that the root husbandry can be applied to this country, and that too, to the great advantage of the general interest of its husbandry.

At the head of the root family stands the potatoe. Although potatoes may not be, and probably are not, the best roots for field culture, when the object is to produce food for neat stock and sheep, yet for the many other important uses to which

they are applied, they are entitled to high estimation, and may justly claim superiority to every other kind or species of the root family. For fattening pork they are probably better than any other sort of roots. But their principal excellence is for the table. Here they have no kindred rivals. As an article of food, sustaining and comforting human life, the potatoe stands pre-eminent above all his fellows.

If a multitude of extant publications on the culture of potatoes should be considered as superseding the necessity of writing and publishing any thing more upon the subject, then I ought to drop my pen instantly, and write nothing more on the subject of potatoes. Enough to compose volumes has been published on the subject. The agricultural journals teem with potatoe experiments and instructions, such as they are, relative to the manner of cultivating the crop. But unfortunately, the results of experiments are so discordant, and many of the opinions given are so contradictory to each other, that an inquirer after truth can scarcely be benefited by reading what has been published. I do not mean to pass an indiscriminate censure on all the publications relative to potatoes, that have appeared in the public journals. Many of them are sensible productions, and but for their misfortune of being connected with visionary and contradictory associates, they might be read with interest, and be useful guides to correct practice. As things are, they labor under great disadvantages. It does not appear after all that there need be any peculiar difficulty in cultivating potatoes. There are, indeed, a few common sense principles which ought always to be regarded. What these are I will endeavor to show, and when that is done, the subject will be dismissed.

In the first place, it is important to the potatoe planter that he have in his possession a good variety or sort of potatoes. Every planter should make this a primary concern. The potatoe family, like almost every other belonging to the vegetable kingdom, is composed of many varieties. It cannot be supposed that they are all equally productive, or equally meritorious, in point of flavor or nutritive substance. The fact is known to be far otherwise. Some varieties are known to be comparatively, if not positively, worthless, while among others will be found representations of all the degrees of comparison—good, better, best. To cultivate an inferior sort of potatoes, while a better, and even the very best sort, might be cultivated with equal ease, and no greater expense, is a practice which can admit of no justification. Yet this is frequently done. That any farmers should practice so indiscretely in regard to this concern, as it is known many do, is altogether unaccountable. Should a potatoe planter desire me to give him instructions relative to culture of potatoes, my first precept would be, procure a good variety—spare no reasonable pains to procure the very best variety that can be obtained. I might recommend a few varieties, but there will not be room in this letter for a description of them.

Previous to planting, care should be taken to ascertain, as nearly as possible, what quantity of seed is required for a hill of potatoes. It should be a quantity neither greater nor less than is necessary to secure the most profitable results. I use the word *seed*, because I know of no other that will so readily and advantageously express my meaning. Yet the potatoe bulb or root is not seed. Potatoes do, indeed, frequently produce seed, but that is quite a different thing. When, therefore, I use the term *seed*, I use it according to popular custom, meaning the potatoe itself. It is known that, in regard to the quantity of seed necessary to be used, there are diversities of opinion, and practice differs accordingly. The prevailing inclination seems to be, to use seed to excess. Planters, if I am not mistaken, err more frequently in using too much seed, than in not using enough. It does not appear that the potatoe crop is benefited by heavy seeding. Too much seed is detrimental to it, by causing more roots, and a greater number of potatoes to grow, than is consistent with thrifty vegetation. If I plant whole potatoes of the size of turkey's eggs, (and I would never plant smaller ones,) one alone suffices for a hill. If it were larger it would please me better, and it may be considerable larger, perhaps twice as large, and yet be planted without cutting. I rarely plant more than one whole potatoe in a hill, and if they are cut, as they always are when large, then only one piece suffices for a hill.

The largest potatoes should always be selected for planting. It is, as I maintain, a general rule, applying to all vegetable, as well as animal tribes, that the more perfect the parents are, the more perfect the offspring or progeny may be expected to be. Husbandmen, when selecting seeds for their various crops, should never lose sight of this rule. To plant or sow seeds of an inferior quality lessens the prospect of a good crop, and it ends to deteriorate the species or variety. If persisted in, it will, in a little time, render the produce worthless.

In regard to the culture of potatoes, the error of planting imperfect seed is practiced to an unpardonable extent. The very smallest potatoes, such as are scarcely fit for any useful purpose, are often selected for that use. The consequence is a rapid deterioration in the quality and quantity of their produce. It does not appear to be true, as many suppose, that potatoes, in order to perpetuate their good qualities, need to be frequently changed from one distant place to another. I have cultivated the Sardinia potatoe more than twenty years on my farm, in an uninterrupted succession, always using seed produced on the farm, and not the least symptom of deterioration has appeared, in regard to either the quantity or quality of its production. On the contrary, the variety appears to have improved under my culture.

My practice, as before remarked, is, to select for planting the largest potatoes. I am particularly careful to select for that use such as are overgrown, and are for that reason unfit for culinary purpose. If, after all these are taken, there still remains a deficiency to be supplied, the next largest and best potatoes are selected for that use. As I always plant large potatoes when such can be obtained, my practice of course is to cut them, and in doing this I endeavor to divide them so as to give to each half of a potatoe an equal number of eyes or buds, or as nearly so as practicable. The half of a potatoe thus divided supplies seed for one hill. Sometimes, when the potatoe is very large, it is divided into more than two parts, and then each part supplies seed for a hill. Although the practice of cutting seed potatoes is by some objected to, yet I am satisfied that cutting does them no injury, and if they are large, as seed potatoes always should be, cutting is absolutely necessary.

At what distance apart should potatoes be planted? This is an important question, and I regret that I cannot answer it to my own satisfaction. I am inclined to believe that planters err more frequently in planting too thin than otherwise. The more general practice, so far as I know, is, to plant potatoes in hills, but they are sometimes planted on rows in one continuous order. If planted in hills I cannot suppose the hills need be distant from each other more than three feet; perhaps smaller distances would be better. If planted on rows in a continuous order, which is probably the better way, the rows may be four feet apart, and then the potatoes should be dropped on the rows one within twelve or fifteen inches of another. The evils to be guarded against in making choice of distances are, on the one hand, not to waste the use of land by neglecting to distribute seed upon it in sufficient quantities and in a suitable manner, and on the other, not to injure the crop by overseeding. Questions in such cases relative to distance can be settled only by experiments. Yourself and every other farmer, should become an experimenter. It is in the power of every farmer to institute and carry on many experiments in relation to practical husbandry. It may be done on a scale so small as to cost merely nothing, and put nothing to hazard, and yet be the means of settling many doubtful questions, and thus improving his own husbandry and that of the country around him.

The culture of potatoes differs from that of most other crops belonging to the drill husbandry only in a few particulars. The potatoe crop requires a rich soil—no matter how rich. Any sort of dung may be applied to it in profession. In many cases it is good practice to dung potatoes in the holes. Plaster operates on potatoes to as great effect as on any thing else. Potatoes require also, in common with all other tilled crops, good tillage. But in regard to tillage, care should be taken to discontinue it earlier in the season than is necessary and proper in relation to most other crops. After the time when potatoes are in blossom, the ground about them should not be stirred by any implement of tillage. At that time the bulbs or small potatoes are

formed or forming, and any subsequent agitation of the ground causes new roots to grow, and multiplies the number of potatoes. The consequence is that the potatoes are many and small, and the crop less valuable than it otherwise would be. If, after the season for tillage has passed, weeds grow among potatoes to their injury, they may be pulled out, but this should be done with as little disturbance to the ground as practicable. In some instances, when large weeds grow in close connection with the hills, it will be better to cut them out with a sickle or sharp knife.

The practice, once universally prevalent, of hauling up the ground and raising high hills about the potatoes, fitted only to turn off the water which the crop needs, has not been able to abide the lights of science, or the experience of modern times. It is now almost universally explored, as absurd, unphilosophical, and mischievous to the crop. Farmers in general are now well satisfied, that neither potatoes nor corn need hilling, and that in either case high pointed hills are detrimental. The ground about potatoes should be left in the best form to retain the water that may fall upon it—if descending at all from the hills, the descent should be very moderate and sloping.

It is not advisable to dig and harvest potatoes early in the fall. There is reason to believe, and many do believe, that potatoes improve, under some circumstances at least, and continue to advance towards greater degrees of maturity, long after their tops are dead. Be this as it may it is certain they can be placed in no other situation so favorable to their keeping well, and preserving all their good properties, as in the hill where nature placed them. If they could continue there through the winter, uninjured by the frost, they would come out in the spring in superior order. It is better, therefore, to defer harvesting the potatoe crop till rather a late season in the fall, yet prudence must be exercised, and care taken, not to allow the crop to be fastened in by the winter.

An opinion prevails extensively, and it is sustained by our best authorities, that it injures potatoes to dry them, especially to have the hot sun shine much upon them, after they are pulled. It is said the effect of this is, to alter their flavor, often, if the heat be great and long continued, turning them to a green color, always rendering them less palatable, and sometimes poisonous. In regard to these doctrines I am not altogether an unbeliever. Recently it has been my practice, when harvesting potatoes, to expose them as little as practicable to the weather, especially the hot sun. The sooner after they are dug I can get them to the cellar, to the pit, or some other dark place, the better I am pleased, and if they are wet and dirty that gives me no trouble. A FATHER.

New York State, February, 1836.

Directions for raising the Chinese Mulberry Trees from Seed.

Soak the seed 36 hours in warm water,—sow it in rich garden soil, in drills two feet apart and about as thick as beet seed,—cover but one fourth of an inch deep, and press the soil by stepping on a smooth board,—keep the plants free of weeds,—protect the plants the first winter with a covering of earth,—in the spring transplant them where you intend them to remain, say four feet by six, in warm soil, with a subsoil of gravel or sand—but no clay—cut them off two buds above the ground,
Hampshire Gazette.

Zinc for Roofs.—The Mechanics's Magazine says that zinc has been found unfit for roofs, first because the expansion of the metal is so great by slight changes of temperature that the junctures easily get out of place and leak. Second, the metal is very brittle so that the sheets must be joined by a double coil, which lets the water through by capillary attraction when the snow on the roof is soaked with water, and third because it is to some extent dissolved by the water running over it, imparting bad qualities and rendering it hard and wholly unfit for washing. Its use for culinary vessels has been abandoned on account of the poisonous acid it gives to milk and other fluids. *ib.*

Six Leicester Sheep, a breed distinguished for their great size, broad backs, and heavy fleeces, and remarkably good for mutton, have been imported by Mr. Whitmarsh. There are two fine bucks among them. —*ib.*

found in our neighborhoods. We have bogs and swamps and low lands enough, and certainly it is worth the while to examine some of them, in order to see if peat or some other valuable article, similar in its nature, cannot be found, by which the farmer can be accommodated with a substance which may be used as a manure to renovate his fields and arable lots, and profit by their application.

There is an article used on our sea shores, or rather found on our sea shores, which have been found to be an excellent manure, called muscle beds. We have been informed by a gentleman who owns a farm on Pemaquid Point, (Mr. Macomber,) that he has used this substance with success upon his farm in the culture of wheat, and that he has contracted to deliver several tons to a person at Bowdoinham for manure. The farmers on our river can certainly make trial of this article at a very reasonable rate, and we would suggest to them the propriety of making the experiment.

But cannot the farmer of the interior profit also by the hint in a small way at least? What are these beds composed of? Of sea-sand or mud wet by salt water — of shells filled with mucilaginous matter — of sea weeds and decaying animal matter. The shells are principally made up of carbonate of lime. Could not a compost heap be formed near the sink drain or in some other convenient spot in which might be thrown the refuse matter which accumulates — also lime and vegetable matter as weeds, &c. and some salt thrown in to make out the complement of materials? There can be little doubt that such an admixture of matters would possess fertilizing properties to a high degree.*

There is another mode of fertilizing land but very little used, but nevertheless one of great utility in many places. It is Irrigation or the use of water as applied in a proper manner. Two ways or methods are in use. One by flowing and laying the water upon the whole surface and draining again at pleasure. The other is by conducting streams from certain reservoirs around and about declivities, so that it shall trickle along over a longer extent of surface than it would, if suffered to soak into the soil or go down and off quickly by a straight and steep channel. Many of our hilly farms, and they are not few in this country, might be essentially benefitted in this manner. The reasons of such a result are evident. Water does contain dissolved in it certain substances which constitute the food of vegetables, and is the only channel by which these same substances can be taken into the plant. The greater range therefore you can give this water, and the greater number of roots you can bring it in contact with, the more

* So valuable have the marl beds in New Jersey become from the successful use of them in Agriculture, and the increased call for them, that two railroads are now being built from them to different points on navigable waters, with a capital of \$500,000 in order to transport the marl to different sections of the country. At present it is hauled 20 miles and sold at 12 1-2 cents per bushel. Twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre are used.

One hundred parts of this marl yielded Dr. Rogers by analysis the following ingredients.

Silica (pure flint)	43.40
Oxide of iron	21.60
Alumina (pure clay)	6.40
Lime	10.40
Potash	14.48
Water	4.40

The main fertilizing properties must be the lime and the potash, and it is not often that marl contains so much of any of it. Now could not a compost like the above be very easily made?

benefit you will derive from it.

Would it not be well for the Society to offer a premium or a series of premiums for the best conducted experiments on this kind of irrigation. The plan or mode of applying the water to be examined by a committee for the purpose, and the results detailed by the experimenter and attested to under oath if thought necessary?

Leaving these subjects for your consideration, permit us to suggest an alteration, or an amendment in the mode of bestowing premiums or rewards to competitors. It is well known to you that our funds are small, and that many of our premiums can be little better than compliments, or rather certificates of merit to those who obtain them. A few prize the money which they obtain higher than any thing else, but by far the greatest number are anxious to obtain the premium not for its value in dollars and cents, but as a certificate from the Society that they have either succeeded in a favorite project, or excelled in an honorable pursuit. From the lowness of our funds it is impossible for us to give as many premiums as we desire, and many who are really deserving, are compelled to go away without even the poor reward of a visible compliment for their labor or ingenuity.

Now we are inclined to think that the system of distributing MEDALS to many competitors, would obviate this trouble. The first cost of obtaining dies to strike off these medals might be considerable, but after they were obtained we should be able to distribute nearly as much premium money as we now do, and also a number of medals which would answer the same purpose as many of our small premiums, and be thrice more prized by those who receive them. It would be a standing certificate, a memento of success, and be kept and handed down from father to son, and be a stimulus to every one of them, while a dollar if obtained for the same object, would be soon spent and the source from which it was received and the cause of its reception be forgotten.

SAM'L P. BENSON, }
JAMES PAGE, } Trustees.
EZEKIEL HOLMES, }

For the Maine Farmer.

"What Farmers may be."

MR. HOLMES:—Your interesting correspondent, "J. H. J." under the above title, in the last Farmer, lays down three distinct propositions, showing in substance that Farmers may be the most learned, and the most influential class of men in the world. Under each proposition he has adduced several very good reasons in support of them, and I can most cheerfully assent to all that he has said upon the subject. But while I am so ready to give in my adhesion to his doctrine, I am inclined to think he will find it not an easy task to induce any considerable portion of them to carry out in practice, what he has so correctly laid down in theory.

The occupation of a Farmer certainly requires the "most vigorous exercise of the physical powers of the body," and if you cannot induce a man to adopt that system of labor, which shall render the exercise of these powers productive of the greatest amount of ultimate good, you can hardly expect to convince him, that he may become one of the most learned and influential men in the world.

If I may be permitted to advance an opinion I will say that, judging from daily observation, it would seem that many believe the exercise of mental and physical powers have no connection in

the business of husbandry, that our fathers and grand-fathers thought, all that was necessary for mankind to think upon the subject, and that nothing remains for us to do but work, work, work, without even thinking that we have power to think.

Therefore if we would lay a "firm basis on which to build up their minds in wisdom and knowledge," we must first convince them that the course pursued by our fathers and grand-fathers in relation to husbandry, is by no means the best course.

Convince them that in general a small farm is better than a large one.

Convince them that a little, well tilled, is better than much half tilled.

Convince them that two loads of manure is better than one, and every load judiciously applied is worth a silver Dollar.

Convince them that three good Cows are better than half a dozen poor ones, and so of all other stock.

Convince them that raising their own bread stuff and a little to sell, is far better than "going to New York to mill."

Convince them that two blades of grass may easily be made to grow, where only one grew before.

Convince them that experiment is the mother of improvement, and improvement the true source of wealth.

Convince them of these simple TRUTHS, and induce them to practice accordingly, and the work is done.

You will then bring mind and body to act in unison. You will elevate the husbandman to his natural sphere in the scale of existence. You will place him in the road to higher eminence. He will think for himself, he will be learned, he will be wise, he will be wealthy and influential.

CAROLUS.

May 7, 1836.

From the Genesee Farmer.

Letter from a Father, living in the State of N. York, to his Son in Western Pennsylvania.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

TO MY SON—In a series of letters, claiming to be agricultural, and to contain a general treatise of rural economy, the root husbandry should not be overlooked. By the root husbandry is meant as I understand it the field culture of roots, with intent to provide food for neat cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. The roots principally relied upon for the purpose aforesaid, are potatoes, turneps, ruta baga, mangel wurtzel, carrots and beets. It does not appear that the comparative merits of the roots thus enumerated, have been ascertained to the general satisfaction of the farming community. Some prefer one of them, and some another. No doubt they are all valuable roots, and susceptible of field culture to greater or less degrees of profit, according to congeniality of soil, and other circumstances.

Although it was known here that the root husbandry had succeeded perfectly well in some parts of Europe, especially England and Scotland, and had achieved wonders in accumulating the wealth and resources of those countries, yet it was for a long time doubted whether it would succeed in this country, where the winters are long and severe. By the experiments several enterprising gentlemen in different parts of the country, the question has of late been put to rest—doubts have been removed, and scepticism has yielded to the truth. It is no longer doubted, by those who are competent to judge, that the root husbandry can be applied to this country, and that too, to the great advantage of the general interest of its husbandry.

At the head of the root family stands the potatoe. Although potatoes may not be, and probably are not, the best roots for field culture, when the object is to produce food for neat stock and sheep, yet for the many other important uses to which

they are applied, they are entitled to high estimation, and may justly claim superiority to every other kind or species of the root family. For fattening pork they are probably better than any other sort of roots. But their principal excellence is for the table. Here they have no kindred rivals. As an article of food, sustaining and comforting human life, the potatoe stands pre-eminent above all his fellows.

If a multitude of extant publications on the culture of potatoe should be considered as superseding the necessity of writing and publishing any thing more upon the subject, then I ought to drop my pen instantly, and write nothing more on the subject of potatoe. Enough to compose volumes has been published on the subject. The agricultural journals teem with potatoe experiments and instructions, such as they are, relative to the manner of cultivating the crop. But unfortunately, the results of experiments are so discordant, and many of the opinions given are so contradictory to each other, that an inquirer after truth can scarcely be benefited by reading what has been published. I do not mean to pass an indiscriminate censure on all the publications relative to potatoe, that have appeared in the public journals. Many of them are sensible productions, and but for their misfortune of being connected with visionary and contradictory associates, they might be read with interest, and be useful guides to correct practice. As things are, they labor under great disadvantages. It does not appear after all that there need be any peculiar difficulty in cultivating potatoe. There are, indeed, a few common sense principles which ought always to be regarded. What these are I will endeavor to show, and when that is done, the subject will be dismissed.

In the first place, it is important to the potatoe planter that he have in his possession a good variety or sort of potatoe. Every planter should make this a primary concern. The potatoe family, like almost every other belonging to the vegetable kingdom, is composed of many varieties. It cannot be supposed that they are all equally productive, or equally meritorious, in point of flavor or nutritive substance. The fact is known to be far otherwise. Some varieties are known to be comparatively, if not positively, worthless, while among others will be found representations of all the degrees of comparison—good, better, best. To cultivate an inferior sort of potatoe, while a better, and even the very best sort, might be cultivated with equal ease, and no greater expense, is a practice which can admit of no justification. Yet this is frequently done. That any farmers should practice so indiscreetly in regard to this concern, as it is known many do, is altogether unaccountable. Should a potatoe planter desire me to give him instructions relative to culture of potatoe, my first precept would be, procure a good variety—spare no reasonable pains to procure the very best variety that can be obtained. I might recommend a few varieties, but there will not be room in this letter for a description of them.

Previous to planting, care should be taken to ascertain, as nearly as possible, what quantity of seed is required for a hill of potatoe. It should be a quantity neither greater nor less than is necessary to secure the most profitable results. I use the word *seed*, because I know of no other that will so readily and advantageously express my meaning. Yet the potatoe bulb or root is not seed. Potatoe do, indeed, frequently produce seed, but that is quite a different thing. When, therefore, I use the term *seed*, I use it according to popular custom, meaning the potatoe itself. It is known that, in regard to the quantity of seed necessary to be used, there are diversities of opinion, and practice differs accordingly. The prevailing inclination seems to be, to use seed to excess. Planters, if I am not mistaken, err more frequently in using too much seed, than in not using enough. It does not appear that the potatoe crop is benefited by heavy seeding. Too much seed is detrimental to it, by causing more roots, and a greater number of potatoe to grow, than is consistent with thrifty vegetation. If I plant whole potatoe of the size of turkey's eggs, (and I would never plant smaller ones,) one alone suffices for a hill. If it were larger it would please me better, and it may be considerable larger, perhaps twice as large, and yet be planted without cutting. I rarely plant more than one whole potatoe in a hill, and if they are cut, as they always are when large, then only one piece suffices for a hill.

The largest potatoe should always be selected for planting. It is, as I maintain, a general rule, applying to all vegetable, as well as animal tribes, that the more perfect the parents are, the more perfect the offspring or progeny may be expected to be. Husbandmen, when selecting seeds for their various crops, should never lose sight of this rule. To plant or sow seeds of an inferior quality lessens the prospect of a good crop, and it ends to deteriorate the species or variety. If persisted in, it will, in a little time, render the produce worthless.

In regard to the culture of potatoe, the error of planting imperfect seed is practiced to an unpardonable extent. The very smallest potatoe, such as are scarcely fit for any useful purpose, are often selected for that use. The consequence is a rapid deterioration in the quality and quantity of their produce. It does not appear to be true, as many suppose, that potatoe, in order to perpetuate their good qualities, need to be frequently changed from one distant place to another. I have cultivated the Sardinia potatoe more than twenty years on my farm, in an uninterrupted succession, always using seed produced on the farm, and not the least symptom of deterioration has appeared, in regard to either the quantity or quality of its production. On the contrary, the variety appears to have improved under my culture.

My practice, as before remarked, is, to select for planting the largest potatoe. I am particularly careful to select for that use such as are overgrown, and are for that reason unfit for culinary purpose. If, after all these are taken, there still remains a deficiency to be supplied, the next largest and best potatoe are selected for that use. As I always plant large potatoe when such can be obtained, my practice of course is to cut them, and in doing this I endeavor to divide them so as to give to each half of a potatoe an equal number of eyes or buds, or as nearly so as practicable. The half of a potatoe thus divided supplies seed for one hill. Sometimes, when the potatoe is very large, it is divided into more than two parts, and then each part supplies seed for a hill. Although the practice of cutting seed potatoe is by some objected to, yet I am satisfied that cutting does them no injury, and if they are large, as seed potatoe always should be, cutting is absolutely necessary.

At what distance apart should potatoe be planted? This is an important question, and I regret that I cannot answer it to my own satisfaction. I am inclined to believe that planters err more frequently in planting too thin than otherwise. The more general practice, so far as I know, is, to plant potatoe in hills, but they are sometimes planted on rows in one continuous order. If planted in hills I cannot suppose the hills need be distant from each other more than three feet; perhaps smaller distances would be better. If planted on rows in a continuous order, which is probably the better way, the rows may be four feet apart, and then the potatoe should be dropped on the rows one within twelve or fifteen inches of another. The evils to be guarded against in making choice of distances are, on the one hand, not to waste the use of land by neglecting to distribute seed upon it in sufficient quantities and in a suitable manner, and on the other, not to injure the crop by overseeding. Questions in such cases relative to distance can be settled only by experiments. Yourself and every other farmer, should become an experimenter. It is in the power of every farmer to institute and carry on many experiments in relation to practical husbandry. It may be done on a scale so small as to cost merely nothing, and put nothing to hazard, and yet be the means of settling many doubtful questions, and thus improving his own husbandry and that of the country around him.

The culture of potatoe differs from that of most other crops belonging to the drill husbandry only in a few particulars. The potatoe crop requires a rich soil—no matter how rich. Any sort of dung may be applied to it in profession. In many cases it is good practice to dung potatoe in the holes. Plaster operates on potatoe to as great effect as on any thing else. Potatoe require also, in common with all other tilled crops, good tillage. But in regard to tillage, care should be taken to discontinue it earlier in the season than is necessary and proper in relation to most other crops. After the time when potatoe are in blossom, the ground about them should not be stirred by any implement of tillage. At that time the bulbs or small potatoe are

formed or forming, and any subsequent agitation of the ground causes new roots to grow, and multiplies the number of potatoe. The consequence is that the potatoe are many and small, and the crop less valuable than it otherwise would be. If, after the season for tillage has passed, weeds grow among potatoe to their injury, they may be pulled out, but this should be done with as little disturbance to the ground as practicable. In some instances, when large weeds grow in close connection with the hills, it will be better to cut them out with a sickle or sharp knife.

The practice, once universally prevalent, of hauling up the ground and raising high hills about the potatoe, fitted only to turn off the water which the crop needs, has not been able to abide the lights of science, or the experience of modern times. It is now almost universally explored, as absurd, unphilosophical, and mischievous to the crop. Farmers in general are now well satisfied, that neither potatoe nor corn need hilling, and that in either case high pointed hills are detrimental. The ground about potatoe should be left in the best form to retain the water that may fall upon it—if descending at all from the hills, the descent should be very moderate and sloping.

It is not advisable to dig and harvest potatoe early in the fall. There is reason to believe, and many do believe, that potatoe improve, under some circumstances at least, and continue to advance towards greater degrees of maturity, long after their tops are dead. Be this as it may it is certain they can be placed in no other situation so favorable to their keeping well, and preserving all their good properties, as in the hill where nature placed them, if they could continue there through the winter, uninjured by the frost, they would come out in the spring in superior order. It is better, therefore, to defer harvesting the potatoe crop till rather a late season in the fall, yet prudence must be exercised, and care taken, not to allow the crop to be fastened in by the winter.

An opinion prevails extensively, and it is sustained by our best authorities, that it injures potatoe to dry them, especially to have the hot sun shine much upon them, after they are pulled. It is said the effect of this is, to alter their flavor, often, if the heat be great and long continued, turning them to a green color, always rendering them less palatable, and sometimes poisonous. In regard to these doctrines I am not altogether an unbeliever. Recently it has been my practice, when harvesting potatoe, to expose them as little as practicable to the weather, especially the hot sun. The sooner after they are dug I can get them to the cellar, to the pit, or some other dark place, the better I am pleased, and if they are wet and dirty that gives me no trouble.

A FATHER.

New York State, February, 1836.

Directions for raising the Chinese Mulberry Trees from Seed.

Soak the seed 36 hours in warm water,—sow it in rich garden soil, in drills two feet apart and about as thick as beet seed,—cover but one fourth of an inch deep, and press the soil by stepping on a smooth board,—keep the plants free of weeds,—protect the plants the first winter with a covering of earth,—in the spring transplant them where you intend them to remain, say four feet by six, in warm soil, with a subsoil of gravel or sand—but no clay—cut them off two buds above the ground,

Hampshire Gazette.

Zinc for Roofs.—The Mechanics's Magazine says that zinc has been found unfit for roofs, first because the expansion of the metal is so great by slight changes of temperature that the junctures easily get out of place and leak. Second, the metal is very brittle so that the sheets must be joined by a double coil, which lets the water through by capillary attraction when the snow on the roof is soaked with water, and third because it is to some extent dissolved by the water running over it, imparting bad qualities and rendering it hard and wholly unfit for washing. Its use for culinary vessels has been abandoned on account of the poisonous acid it gives to milk and other fluids. *lb.*

Six Leicester Sheep, a breed distinguished for their great size, broad backs, and heavy fleeces, and remarkably good for mutton, have been imported by Mr. Whitmarsh. There are two fine bucks among them. —*lb.*

Agricultural.

POTATOES.

The following communication in answer to many and importunate inquiries addressed to its author from all parts of the Union, and we are among the first who have been instrumental in giving it publicity. We have scarcely yet had time to peruse it with the attention it deserves, and shall therefore submit it without comment; merely premising that some of Mr. B.'s theories with regard to mixing the sorts of potatoes in the field, and bringing seed potatoes from the north do not coincide with those of our best cultivators.—N. E. Farmer.

[From the Vergennes Gazette.]

MR. BLAISDELL—In your paper of the 21st December last, I published the result of some experiments made during the season, in growing POTATOES. The quantity produced was such as to cause considerable excitement with agriculturists, and I have been called on by public Journals and private letters from Maine to Georgia and from Quebec and Malden, for information respecting my manner of cultivating them. The respectability of the sources from which these inquiries emanate, and the very polite and flattering terms in which they are expressed, forbid the idea of refusal. I therefore embrace the opportunity my health admits of attempting to gratify their wishes, to the extent of my limited powers.

From the remarks of my correspondents I am inclined to believe they misconstrued the statement made in the publication above alluded to. By reference to the statement it will be found that I did not say, or expect to be understood by field culture, that 1,800 bushels of potatoes would be raised upon an acre. I then said as I now say and believe, that 1000 bushels can be grown upon a single acre at less than half the expense and labor they are produced from four in the common manner of culture.

PREPARATION FOR PLANTING.

Whatever soil may be selected for this purpose to insure a large crop, it should be highly manured with compost, decomposed vegetables or barnyard manure, the latter I consider preferable when it can be obtained with convenience; if raw or coarse be made use of, it should be spread immediately before the first ploughing, on the same day, to prevent the evaporation of its best qualities, which will rapidly depart if left exposed to the sun and atmosphere.

The first should be deep ploughing, and may be done as early as suits the convenience of the cultivator. If a stiff marl or clay soil, it would be well to have it ploughed late in the fall previous to planting. Where compost or other substances not liable to fermentation are intended as a manure, it is better the spreading should be omitted until just before the last ploughing, after which it should be thoroughly harrowed fine and smooth as possible then take a narrow light cultivator, or small plough, calculated for turning a deep narrow furrow, with this instrument lay your land in drills, twenty inches asunder and four inches in depth, running north and south if practicable, to admit the rays of the sun to strike the plant equally on both sides; put into the bottom of the furrows or drills about two inches of well rotted barnyard manure or its equivalent, then drop your potatoes, if of the common size, or what is more important, that they contain about the usual quantity of eyes; if more, they should be cut to prevent too many stalks shooting up together. Put a single potatoe in the drills or trenches 10 inches apart; the first should remain uncovered until the second one is deposited. Place them diagonally in the drills, which will afford more space between the potatoes one way, than if laid at right angles in the rows. The covering may be performed with a hoe, first hauling in the furrow raised on each side of the drill, then carefully take from the centre of the space the soil to finish the covering to the depth of 3 1-2 or 4 inches. By taking the earth from the centre of the space on either side, to the width of 3 inches, it will leave a drain of 6 inches in the centre of the space, and a hill of 14 inches in width, gently descending from the drill to the drain; the width and depth of the

drill will be sufficient to protect the plant against any injurious effects of a scorching sun or drenching rain. The drains in the centre will at all times be found sufficient to admit the surplus water to pass off. I am not at all tenacious about the instrument to be made use of for opening the trenches to receive the manure and potatoes; this work should be well done, and may be performed with a common hoe, with much uniformity and accuracy by stretching a line to direct the operation: it is true that the labor cannot be performed with the same facility as with a horse, but it can be better done, and I think at less expense, taking into consideration the labor of the man to hold, the boy to ride and the horse to draw the machine.

DRESSING, HOEING ETC.

When the plant makes its appearance above the surface, the following mixture may be used: For each acre, take one bushel of plaster and two bushels good ashes and sow it broad cast as even as possible. A moist day is preferable for this operation, for want of it a still evening will do.

I consider this mixture decidedly more beneficial and much safer than plaster or ashes alone. The alkali and nitre contained in the ashes lose none of their fertilizing qualities in a moist season, and the invaluable properties of the plaster are fully developed in a dry one, by decomposing the atmosphere and retaining to a much later period in the morning the moisture of the evening dews. There are but few plants in our country that receive so great a share of their nourishment from the atmosphere as the potatoe. The time for dressing or hoeing will be found difficult to describe and must be left to the judgement of the cultivator; it should however, in all climates be done as early as the first buds for blossoms make their appearance.

The operation of hilling should be performed once and *once only* during the season, if repeated after the potatoe is formed it will cause young shoots to spring up, which retards the growth of the potatoe and diminishes its size. If weeds spring up at any time, they should be kept down by the hand or hoe, which can be done without disturbing the growing stalk.

My manner of hoeing or hilling is not to haul in the earth from the spaces between the hills or rows but to bring on fresh earth sufficient to raise the hill around the plant 1 1-2 or 2 inches. In a wet season, the lesser quantity will be sufficient; in a dry one the larger will not be found too much. The substance for this purpose may consist of the scraping of ditches or filthy streets, the earth from a barnyard that requires levelling, where convenient it may be taken from swamps, marshes, the beds and banks of rivers or small sluggish streams at low water. If planted on a clay soil, fresh loam taken at any depth from the surface, even if it partakes largely of fine sand, will be found an excellent top dressing. If planted on a loamy soil, the earth taken from clay-pits, clay or slaty soil will answer a valuable purpose; in fact, there are but few farms in the country but what may be furnished with some suitable substances for top dressing if sought for. The hoeing and hilling may be performed with facility by the aid of a horse and cart, the horse travelling in the centre of a space between the drills, the cart wheels occupying the two adjoining ones, thereby avoiding any disturbance or injury to the growing plants. The time for collecting the top dressing may be regulated by the farmer's own convenience, the earlier the better. Deposited in large piles in or near the potatoe field, is the most suitable place for distribution.

I have frequently tried Bed-planting, (or planting in beds) with uniform success. On moist lands in a stiff or heavy soil, I consider it preferable to any other mode; to do it properly lay your land in beds of from 10 to 20 feet in width, raised in the centre with a plough by back furrowing, after the last harrowing which should be thoroughly done is performed and left crowning with a gradual descent from the centre to the alleys; the proper width and height of the beds must depend on the situation of the land and may be regulated by the judgment of the cultivator. In clearing the alleys, which need not exceed 16 or 18 inches in width, the laborer should stretch two lines the proper distance on each side the alley and throw upon the beds with a shovel the earth necessary to be removed.

The use of lines may be by some considered a useless expenditure of labor,—not so,—the regu-

larity and neatness of appearance will be an abundant remuneration for the trifling time occupied in stretching the lines.

After the land is prepared for planting, strike it out in drills or trenches as before directed; 12 inches asunder, in these drills, drop the potatoes 12 apart (diagonally,) to be covered, hoed, dressed and managed in the same manner as in field culture, with the exception of making an undrain in the spaces between the drills, which is unnecessary and should be avoided. In filling the trenches, dressing &c. the horse cart must be dispensed with and a hand cart or wheelbarrow substituted.

In recommending the drills north and south in field planting, I did not wish to be understood that other more valuable considerations should be abandoned for this practice, it is desirable it should be so where the level or moderate descent of the land will admit of it, but if too steep and liable to wash, care should be taken to avoid this evil by running the drills in such direction as may be required to maintain a proper descent, even if it should be necessary to run them in curved lines, or wind round a steep hill to preserve the required descent to admit the surplus water to pass off.

In communicating my experiments to some of my neighboring farmers who are always in a hurry and run over with a plough two acres of land in half the time required to do justice to one; their reply generally is, that my tedious mode of cultivation has too much piddling and small labor for their patience, and persist in their accustomed manner of half ploughing, half planting and half hoeing five acres of good land and not obtain more potatoes than one properly cultivated, would produce, thereby losing half their labor and seed, besides the use of four acres of their best land, which might be converted to other valuable purposes.

I should think that intelligent farmers by a little reflection would perceive the folly of pursuing the usual wasteful practice of planting potatoes in rows and hills four feet asunder, leaving four fifths of their land unimproved and subject to a rapid waste of its most fertilizing qualities by being nakedly exposed to the washing of drenching rains and the evaporation of the atmosphere; and after all their labor, may consider themselves fortunate if they obtain 200 bushels to the acre, which exceeds the average yield in this section of country. By pursuing the course I have recommended, in ordinary seasons on a good soil you may rationally calculate on a crop of from 800 to 1200 bushels to the acre.

To such farmers as complain of my tedious and piddling mode of culture, I have only to remark, if they will *piddle* their land in the same manner, even if they waste half their crop, they will find themselves richly rewarded for their whole labor, in the benefits they derive by this preparation in succeeding crops. I would also add that I believe it is generally acknowledged, that rotation in most kinds of crops is desirable, but none more necessary than potatoes, even a second crop on the same ground well prepared will be found to degenerate in quality and quantity.

LOCATION.

The district of country in North America best adapted for their growth, taking into consideration quantity and quality, is situated between the 2d and 10th degrees of east longitude (from Washington) and between the 42d and 50th degrees of north latitude; they are grown to a very considerable extent much farther north, south, and west, but in diminished quantities and inferior qualities.

SOIL.

A rich marl or clay is perhaps the most productive; a strong moist loamy soil, (the newer or less it has been cultivated the better) is the most convenient and least expensive soil to grow them on. Most soils common to our country will produce them in great abundance and perfection, the more rapid the growth, the better the quality.

SEASON FOR PLANTING.

In this respect they are a most accommodating crop, allowing the farmer in the southern and central part of the designated district, 20 to 30 days to perform the operation; the particular part depends in a very considerable degree upon the climate, in the region of my residence, the 44th degree of north latitude, they may be planted from the 10th of May to the 15th of June. At the extreme north of the described limits less latitude is afforded for seed time and harvest. The good husbandman in that

climate should make all practical preparation for his crop in the fall, and plant as early in the spring as the ground is sufficiently dry and warm; here the growth is extremely rapid, not requiring more than from 90 to 110 days to perfect it; the quantity will not be quite so great as with us, but superior in quality.

KIND OF SEED TO BE PLANTED.

This is a question of too much difficulty for me to answer satisfactory to myself, or instructively to the numerous inquiries of my correspondents; the kinds and qualities in a single neighborhood are too numerous and their names too local and variable to admit of an intelligent reply.

The female of this plant, like most of her sex, is so jealous of her rights and privileges and so tenacious of cultivating a friendly intercourse and connexion with her neighbors, that the blossoms in fields at 200 yards distance, planted of different kinds of seed, are frequently found contributing liberally with each other, by the aid of a gentle breeze a portion of their generating *Farina*, which is generously received and kindly nourished; the product of this connexion strongly partaking of the properties and appearance of both, many of them in apparent equal parts. Plant this mixture a few years in a place of safety and it will be found that the weaker plant will gradually yield to the stronger, until the one most productive and best suited to the climate will be produced in its original and unadulterated purity. The fact goes far in satisfying me of the cause of our frequent disappointments in not finding seed at all times producing its kind. We have abundant means with a little care and patience of supplying ourselves with every variety of potatoes, the growth of which is adapted to our climate.

The wise Provider of all good things has kindly furnished us with means of providing ourselves with innumerable kinds and qualities of this vegetable. The ripe balls or seeds from a single stalk, will produce by three seasons' planting, almost countless varieties of every color shape, size and quality, which the country has heretofore produced, and something new, in addition.

The first season's planting they will be small and tender, the second larger, and the third of suitable size for field planting.

The only answer I can give to the inquiry of the right kind of seed, is to recommend to the farmer that kind to be procured in the vicinity, most productive, except a small quantity if he possesses them of a superior quality, for table use. In changing seed which will occasionally be found beneficial, if removed from any considerable distance, should be taken from the north, the growth will be more rapid, consequently, the quality better, and in southern climates the quantity greater for the first season, at least.

TIME FOR GATHERING.

This ought to be done when the potatoe is ripe and *not before*, the idea so generally entertained that an early frost which nips the top and destroys the vine, prevents the further growth of the potatoe is a mistaken one, and ought to be exploded; on the contrary, if it has not at this time attained its full size and weight, it grows more rapidly; the nourishment required for sustaining the top is transferred to the root. From a knowledge of this fact, satisfactorily tested, I am inclined to believe that by clipping the bushy part of the top with a scythe or other instrument, after the ball has attained its full size, the crop would be greatly benefited by the operation. I have made a few experiments of this kind, all tending to confirm my belief, but not sufficient to warrant me in making the broad unqualified assertion of the positive correctness of my opinion. I hope agriculturalists in different sections of the country will lend a helping hand to aid in testing the correctness or incorrectness of my doctrine in this particular. The green tops are excellent food for cattle or swine; if left on the field will produce no injury, but serve to enrich the soil.

HOUSING AND WINTERING.

The erroneous practice pursued by our best farmers generally, induces me to state the manner I have pursued for years with unvaried success. To preserve 5 or 600 bushels, I make a box or bin 4 feet wide, 3 feet high, and sufficient length to contain the required quantity, have the joints well fastened and made as tight as possible, put it into the cellar on skids, raising it 3 or 4 inches from the cel-

lar bottom; if the potatoes are intended to be taken out at different times, two or three partitions should be put in cross wise of the bin, to prevent such as are not required for immediate use from exposure to the atmosphere. After this preparation is completed, the next operation is gathering and housing them. Here I must again dissent from the usual practice of farmers generally; instead of leaving them in the sun and wind to dry, after digging, in small parcels, in carts or heaps, they should be immediately covered with the tops or something else, even if they remain in the field but a few hours. This destructive practice, I think must be entirely attributable to want of reflection, it is the sole cause which produces the evil so much complained of, by us called, the watery potatoe; by the Irish, the winded potatoe; destroying not only the flavor but a great portion of its nutriment. In fact, sun, wind and rain, are as destructive to a fresh dug potatoe, as moonlight is to a fresh caught fish. When your potatoes are removed to the cellar, put into the bottom of the bin 2 inches of fresh earth, then fill your apartment with potatoes, within 3 or 4 inches of the top, immediately cover it with tough grass turf, cut up with the spade a little dove tailing, to the thickness of 3 or 4 inches; cover them with turf, grass side up, packed close and pounded down with a wooden mallet, to exclude as much air as possible. In this manner in a cellar of suitable temperature, they may be kept fresh and good for a year, without germinating. No danger is to be apprehended of having too much dirt stick to the potatoes, it assists in preserving them; an occasional sprinkling of fresh earth amongst them will be found serviceable.

POTATOES FOR FOOD.

Their uses for man and beast are too well understood to require any remarks of mine on the subject. This most valuable of plants in the whole vegetable kingdom, undoubtedly affords more healthy nourishment to that portion of the human family residing in Europe and America, than that of any other vegetable, perhaps it is best to say, double the amount, and at less than half the expense.

POTATOES FOR BREAD.

By adding to wheat, or rye flour, one fourth or one third part of the meal of potatoes, the quality of the bread will be improved and the flavor equally palatable. It is easy of digestion, sets kindly on the most delicate stomach, is highly beneficial in dyspeptic complaints, a disease (by the by) more common than necessary in our country; and generally originates from idleness: in some cases too close application to study—but more generally by high living, want of proper exercise of body and mind or too great indulgence in hypochondriacal reflections. I am no doctor, but will guarantee a cure gratis, to such as have mind, nerve, and resolution enough to follow my prescription.

The disease is of rare occurrence amongst the laboring class in Ireland, that live on potatoes and salt 6 days in a week, and is equally so among the peasantry of Canada.

The manner of making this bread is simple and easy; boil good potatoes properly, drain off the water as soon as they have boiled sufficiently, let them remain in the warm kettle to dry, take off the skin, put them in a mortar and pound the meal fine, to which add a little fine salt, previous to putting in the yeast to raise the bread; mix the potatoe meal thoroughly with the flour, afterwards pursue the process of making bread from flour. Its general use should be encouraged by the government and people. In addition to the benefits produced on the health of the consumer. In point of economy, it will be found an immense saving in the expense of bread, a saving worthy of the consideration of the American people, a saving equal to the whole amount and cost of bread consumed by 3,000,000 of her population, a saving in every five years, to each populous state sufficient to defray the expense of constructing a Rail Road in each, from one extremity to the other. Is it not then the duty of every well wisher to the prosperity and happiness of the human family, to encourage the culture, and more general use of the potatoe, by precept and example? It is not only useful in bread, but in many cases an excellent substitute for it; with a beef steak in the morning a fine baked potatoe will be found a comfortable substitute for a slice of bread.

To such as are fond of that most nutritious liquid which first gave their infant bodies strength

and vigor, a good boiled potatoe may be satisfactorily substituted for a slice of bread in a bowl of milk.

In fact its uses may be increased ten fold without infringing on the rights and privileges of the most difficult epicure, or the strong propensities of the fashionable gormandizer, who worships his BELLY at the expense of his LEGS.

In conclusion, I have only to add, that I am fully aware my communication will be considered by many readers who take the trouble to wade through it, unnecessarily long and tedious: the only apology I have to urge, is a want of knowledge of proper language to express my ideas with brevity, a wish to answer the many minute inquiries of my numerous correspondents and the strong desire I have to cause two potatoes to grow this season where one did last.

I hope that the purity of my intentions will protect me against the malignant shafts of the merciless critic. He is at full liberty to attack the matter, but spare the manner. I beg of him not to forget to remember that many of us who hoe potatoes the most of our days, and sleep the most of our nights have very little time to attend schools to learn and expose our neighbors' faults, or forget and hide our own.

Should the foregoing remarks, which appear as applicable to many other crops as that of potatoes, have the effect to improve the culture of the earth beneficially, to any portion of my fellow citizens, I shall consider myself, even in my ill state of health, abundantly remunerated for my feeble attempts at improvement.

A. W. BARNUM.

Vergennes, March 13, 1835.

Mechanics' Department.

From the Mechanic and Farmer.

Labor Saving Machinery.

The question now is far from being settled in some minds, with regard to the expediency of increasing machinery to perform the ordinary labor of the hands. There are serious consequences supposed to be involved, and the dreadful day to be advancing when the laborer shall find nothing on which to exercise his skill, and by which to obtain a living!

With respect to our country, we have nothing to fear on this subject for a long, long time—we have as yet an immensity of land unoccupied, and much of it certainly appears as though the labor even of machinery, might be applied to decided advantage. When labor saving machinery shall have been carried so far as to make every foot of land available—every hill-top and valley bloom in luxuriance—overcome every natural obstacle, and cause the sun and rain to yield to man their full amount of sustenance—when it shall have gone so far that not an atom which grows shall be wasted or lost, we hazard the opinion that even then, laborers will be needed, if for nothing else, to make new machinery which shall be an improvement on that which has preceded.

But however strong the objections may be among laborers, against machinery, these objections cannot stop its introduction. This being the case, it becomes every farmer, every mechanic, and every laborer, to keep up, so far as he is able with the spirit of the times—they must use machinery as well as others.

Should they halt by the way, to complain and find fault, and despite of improvements going on around them, pertinaciously resolve to work the *old way*, they will at length find that in doing it, they have been yielding to others a good portion of that power which they should have seized upon and applied at its first introduction. We do not mean that every thing new should be received into favor, because it is new; no—every machine, every new invention, should be fully examined, tested and tried; when this is done, do not let it be rejected on account of prejudice.

But we only intended in this article, when we commenced, to call attention to a number of machines which have just been put in operation at the mills in this city, for the purpose of manufacturing Doors, Sash, Blinds, &c. The machines occupy two large rooms, being the second and third stories of the new brick Plaster Mill on the Kenduskeag. Upon the first floor, is a circular saw, a machine for boring wheel hubs and other articles, and for

making large tenons. In the upper room is a machine for sawing out stuff for the various kinds of work; another for getting it to an equal thickness; a machine for making tenons, one for boring, one for making pins for pinning up doors, sash and blinds, three for morticing, one for grooving the stiles for sash, one for ploughing the grooves in the stiles and rails for doors, one for coping sash stuff, one for sticking sash stuff, and one for setting-up doors, sash, &c. Of the particular mode of operating these different machines, we cannot now speak, for want of room; and — we don't like to expose our ignorance! This much, however, we must say, that when in operation, we were delighted with the regularity and speed with which they executed the work, and the little loss of material they occasioned. The work itself, too, appears well; and however strange it may seem when talking about it, there will be found a reality upon examination. It appears to us, that a portion of such machinery might be introduced in almost every carpenter's shop, to great advantage; and by connecting the business with some other, a little steam engine would move the whole at a trifling sum.

A portion of these machines we believe were invented by a Mr Faulkner, in New Hampshire, and have been put in operation in this city by Mr. — Parker, lately from Massachusetts. We have not been able to ascertain the amount of labor probably saved by these machines, as they have just commenced operations. When this shall have been ascertained, we shall take occasion to inform our friends in relation to it; and in the mean time would invite them to call up and see for themselves the improvements which have been made. It is worth an examination as a matter of curiosity, and to those acquainted with machinery, presents quite a treat.

Summary.

Small Pox in Bowdoinham. We are just informed by credible authority, that a case of this virulent disease now exists in Bowdoinham, in the person of a young man by the name of Varnum, who is recently from New York, and is supposed to have taken the contagion at that place; a number of persons have been exposed, but it is thought that it will be superseded by the kine pox, for which purpose they have been vaccinated.

Brunswick Regulator.

FIRE.—We delay the press (says the Nantucket Inquirer of the 11th inst.) to announce the occurrence of one of the most calamitous fires which it has ever been the fate of this community to experience. Three large and very valuable buildings on Main street, and two on Union street, besides several barns and out houses, have fallen before the devouring element. The fire commenced at about half past eleven last night, in rear of the premises of Mr. E. Starbuck, known as the Washington House, and appeared to proceed from the outside of the kitchen chimney. In a very few minutes after its discovery, the whole of that extensive establishment was enveloped in flames, and its numerous inmates fleeing for their lives. The fire next communicated to the adjoining building, the residence of Mr. Francis F. Hussey, thence eastward to a store owned by the same gentleman, thence to the hardware store of Mr. Wm. C. Swain, corner of Union street, and from this to the next building on Union st. occupied by Mr. Cowan as a tailor's shop; the two last mentioned buildings also belonged to Mr. Hussey. So rapid was the conflagration, the wind being fresh from S. W. that time was not afforded to save a tenth part of the contents of the houses and stores destroyed. Nearly all the furniture of the Washington house, and of the dwelling house of Mr. Hussey, together with a great portion of the stock in trade of Mr. Swain, was consumed. Incalculable damage was also sustained by Messrs. J. & J. Lawrence & Co. in the removal of their extensive stock; and much injury resulted from the same cause to many others in this exceedingly compact neighborhood. The buildings on every side were often on fire, particularly that of Messrs. Lawrence; and nothing but the most incredible exertions of the firemen and citizens generally, saved this portion of the town from one wide and common desolation. The loss already suffered cannot fall short of \$100,000.

FROM TEXAS.

Accounts from Texas confirm the rumors of the cold blooded massacre of the troops under Col. Fannin after they had capitulated. We hope that the statement will yet be proved false, for such an atrocious act is unparalleled in history. We fear, however, that the statement is true. The following are the particulars stated in the New Orleans papers:—

"By the *Levant*, arrived this morning, we have the following information, which we think we can depend upon:

Col. Fannin evacuated Goliad on the 9th March by order of Gen. Houston, Commander-in-Chief; his force was between 340 and 350 men; about 8 miles east of the fort, they were surrounded by the enemy with 2000 cavalry and infantry. The advance guard were cut off, 28 in number. The attack was made by the enemy between 4 and 5 o'clock, P. M. Fannin fought them until late in the evening, and repulsed them with a small loss on his part, while that of the enemy was 190 killed, and many wounded. After the enemy had fallen back Col. Fannin entrenched himself during the night. On the following morning the enemy showed a white flag. Fannin went out to meet the commanding General, who represented to Col. Fannin that he knew the force opposed to him—that he was entrenched in an open prairie without water, that he was surrounded, and that his men must perish, that he wished to show him quarters, &c.

A capitulation was made with the usual forms of warfare; Col. Fannin was to lay down his arms and march back to Goliad, where they were to remain six or eight days as prisoners of war, to be shipped to New Orleans from Copano. They surrendered on these conditions; on the 9th day after their arrival at Goliad, they were assured that a vessel was to receive them at Copano, to embark for New Orleans, and Col. F. marched out in file, the Mexicans each side of him. They were marching down about 5 miles, and the order was given to fire upon them. At the first fire nearly every man fell—a Mr Hadden of Texas and three others, succeeded in reaching some bushes about 100 yards distant. They were pursued by the enemy into the high grass where they lost sight of them. Hadden remained in the grass all night; in the morning he succeeded in making his escape.

By the *Levant*, we also have information that the Indians on the Mexican frontier have risen in great force; that one American had been killed, and all was terror and confusion in the country. Gen. Gaines had advanced to the Sabine with about 700 men, and was collecting all the force of the country to attempt to stop the advance of the Indians. Report estimated them at 10,000 strong.

Gen. Houston with an army of 2500 men was encamped at the Brassos bottom, 20 miles above San Felipe. He was daily receiving reinforcements and the army was in good spirits."

LATER.

A slip from the New Orleans Bulletin of the 24th ult. contains the following important intelligence from Texas.

"By Major Horton who came passenger in the Texian government, schr, *Invincible*, we learn that 1200 Mexicans had crossed the Colorado, 800 men at San Felipe and 400 at Fort Bend; that General Houston's effective force was 2300. The Colorado had overflowed its banks, and the 1200 Mexicans cannot retreat. Houston had despatched Major Baker with 400 Texians, and was advancing himself with his whole force upon the Mexican division retreat to the main army was impossible.

The total destruction of the 1200 Mexicans is certain; all was joy and confidence at the seat of government. The elements are fighting for Texas, and the universal opinion is the Mexican army between the Colorado and Brassos is already defeated. Houston must have fought the battle last Sunday.

Dreadful Massacre.—We also learn that 73 unarmed emigrants, that left the city in the *William and Francis* for Copano and were landed at that port, trusting themselves unarmed in the power of the Mexicans, were in two hours butchered by the soldiery, in the sight of the vessel; the schooner escaped to Matagorda.

The *Pennsylvania* is expected up to-night with further information. The *Brutus* was to sail the day after the *Invincible* with women and children.

Novel Engagement.—The Texian armed schoo-

ner *Invincible*, Capt. Brown, fell in with the Mexican schooner *Montezuma*, at anchor off the *Brassos Santiago*. An action immediately took place, with a running fight of several hours, which terminated in the sinking of the *Montezuma* before she reached the shore to which she was running. When last seen, her yards were under water. She was preparing to convey to Galveston Bay about two thousand men; the expedition is now destroyed. The *Invincible* was some cut in her sails and rigging, but had not a man wounded. The fate of the *Montezuma's* crew is not known.

FRONTIER WAR.

The N. Y. Star publishes the following from Hudson's Correspondent, dated Washington, May 3d, 8, P. M.

"An express despatch has arrived here this evening, from Gen. Gaines, calling for three brigades of Militia to enable him to resist a meditated attack from the Comanche Indians. Gaines says that they are to be led on or armed by Santa Anna, who has laid claim to the port of Natchitoches. It is thought by many here, that we shall have a rupture with Mexico before many months.

The Washington Globe says 'there is a great likelihood that a war on the Western border has already commenced.'

Cause of Dyspepsia.—A pleasant writer in the last number of the American Quarterly, reviewing the recent books of travels in North America, agrees with Mr. Tudor, one of the authors reviewed, that, in addition to the American practice of bolting one's meals, another cause of that peculiar American disease dyspepsia is,—

"The enormous quantity of hot bread, hot rolls, smoking hot cakes, half baked and little removed from dough, and withal saturated with melted butter, which are consumed at nearly every meal, morning, noon and night by all ages, and each sex—by little children as well as by grown up fathers and mothers." To these two sufficient reasons we can yet add another—and that is the custom of "taking tea," which means drinking a quantum of the Chinese beverage, with a pretty substantial accompaniment of various "relishes," two or three hours only after a hearty dinner.—"Don't give the stomach too much to do, said an experienced physician and it will never trouble you," but it may well be supposed that it will murmur and revolt at the little repose which it is permitted to enjoy.

Farmers tell us that the fields of wheat and rye in this section, have, generally speaking, borne the winter well, and are now looking finely.—Grass food is springing up rapidly, and hay is falling in price. Those who have withheld from sale their hay when offered \$25.00 and \$30.00 per ton, in anticipation of higher prices, will now be obliged to take up with something less, probably. From a variety of signs it is anticipated that the present will be a fruitful year.—*Greenfield Gazette.*

A Rare Cow.—On the 24th ult, a cow belonging to Thomas Ford, Higher Runcore, calved five calves,—last year four, and at the two previous calvings two each time,—making thirteen calves, and not five years old till next June. She is but small in size, and her color dark red and white.—*English Paper.*

Marriages.

In Greene, Mr. Thomas S. Pullen, of this town, to Miss Harriet Bailey, of Greene.

In Bath, Mr. John Branscomb to Miss Lucy E. Parshley. Mr. William R. Newton to Miss Lydia McCobb.

In Portland, Mr. George Lord to Miss Sarah F. Thrasher. Mr. John Cushman to Miss Mary S. Currier. Mr. James Meserve to Miss Sarah McKenney.

Deaths.

In this town, on the 12th inst. Mr. Waterman Stanley, aged about 50.

In Bath, Mr. Ira Moore, aged 35. Miss Lydia Emmons, aged 18.

In Phippsburg, Mr. McIntire Wallace aged about 40.

In Portland, Mrs. Betsey Fastes, aged 44.

Prices of Country Produce in Boston.
From the New England Farmer.

		FROM	TO
Apples, Russetts and Baldwins	barrel	1 50	2 25
Beans, white,	bushel	2 00	2 50
Beef, mess,	barrel	12 75	13 00
Cargo, No. 1.	"	10 25	11 75
prime,	"	8 50	9 00
Beeswax, (American)	pound	27	29
Butter, store, No. 1.	"	20	22
Cheese, new milk,	"	10	12
Feathers, northern, geese,	"	46	50
southern, geese,	"	42	45
Flax, American,	"	9	10
Fish, Cod,	quintal	3 25	3 37
Flour, Genesee, cash	barrel	8 37	8 56
Baltimore, Howard-st.	"	7 75	7 87
Baltimore, wharf,	"	7 62	7 75
Alexandria,	"	7 75	7 87
Grain, Corn, northern yellow,	bushel	1	00
southern flat do.	"	94	97
white	"	88	90
Rye, northern,	"	1 25	1 25
Barley,	"	90	1 00
Oats, northern, (prime)	"	60	70
Hay, best Eng. pr. ton of 2000 lbs	"	25 00	30 00
eastern screwed,	"	25 00	27 00
hard pressed,	"	24 00	27 00
Honey,	gallon		
Hops, 1st quality	pound	13	14
2d quality	"	11	12
Lard, Boston, 1st sort,	"	16	16
southern, 1st sort,	"	16	16
Leather, slaughter, sole	"	19	20
do. upper,	"	12	14
dry hide, sole,	"	19	21
do. upper,	"	18	20
Philadelphia, sole,	"	27	29
Baltimore, sole,	"	25	27
Lime, best sort,	cask	1 17	1 20
Plaster Paris, pr ton of 2200 lbs	"	2 50	3 00
Pork, Mass. inspect. extra clear	barrel	27 00	27 50
Navy, mess,	"		
bone, middling, scarce,	"		
Seeds, Herd's Grass,	bushel	3	87
Red Top,	"	75	80
Red Clover, northern,	pound	12	13
Silk Cocoons, (American)	bushel	3	00
Tallow, tried,	cwt.	8 50	9 00
Wool, prime, or Saxony fleeces,	pound	65	75
Am. full blood, washed,	"	55	65
do. 3-4ths do.	"	55	58
do. 1-2 do.	"	50	50
do. 1-4 and common	"	40	45
Native washed	"	38	60
Northern pulled { Pulled superfine,	"	58	60
1st Lambs,	"	50	53
2d do.	"	40	41
3d do.	"	30	35
1st Spinning,	"	48	50
Southern pulled wool is generally 5 cts. less per lb.			

PROVISION MARKET.

RETAIL PRICES.

Hams, northern,	pound	14	15
southern and western,	"	13	13
Pork, whole hogs,	"	10	
Poultry,	"	11	15
Butter, (tub)	"	20	25
lump	"	22	25
Eggs,	dozen	16	18
Potatoes,	bushel	33	37
Cider,	barrel	2 50	2 75

BRIGHTON MARKET.—MONDAY May 9.

Reported for the Boston Advertiser.

At Market, 181 Beef Cattle, 6 pair Working Oxen, 28 Cows and Calves, 35 Sheep, and 43 Swine. Prices—Beef Cattle—Last week's prices were fully supported. We noticed a number of extra taken at 48s; 1st quality at 43s 6d a 46s 6d; 2d do. 39s a 43s 3d; 3d do. 36s a 38s.

Working Oxen—Prices about the same; sales at \$65, 67 50, and 85.

Cows and Calves—Sales at \$20, 35, 40, and 50. Sheep—24 sold at \$7 each, 10 at 8, 50 each, and 1 at \$12.

Swine—Prices, 9 for Sows and 10 for Barrows. There is one lot of about 200 on the way—will be in to-morrow.

Eastern Steamboat Mail Line
FOR

Boston, Portland, Bath, Hallowell, Bangor, Eastport and St. John's, N. B.

The PORTLAND, 450 tons, Capt. Jabez Howes,
" INDEPENDENCE, 500 " " Thomas Howes,
" MACDONOUGH, 300 " " Andrew Brown,
" BANGOR, 400 " " Sam'l H. Howes,
" ROYAL TAR, 400 " " Reed.

The splendid Steamers Portland and Independence, will run every night, (Sundays excepted,) between Boston and Portland—leaving Eastern Steamboat Wharf, foot of Hanover street, BOSTON—and Andrew's Wharf PORTLAND, at 7 o'clock P. M.

The Portland

LEAVES BOSTON, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays,—and PORTLAND on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

The Independence

LEAVES BOSTON on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays,—and PORTLAND on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. These Steamers are expressly adapted for a sea route, and provided with extra Boats and life preservers.

THE SUPERIOR STEAMER

Macdonough,

HAS been put in perfect order, improved in model and speed, and will run daily between Portland and Hallowell, touching at Bath and Gardiner—will leave Portland after the arrival of the Boston Boats, at 8 o'clock A. M., on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and Hallowell, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 9 o'clock A. M., connecting with the Night Boats for Boston.

THE FAVORITE STEAMER

Bangor,

WILL run as a Day Boat between Portland and Bangor, touching at Owl's Head, Saturday Cove, Bucksport, Frankfort and Hampden—she will leave Portland on Wednesdays and Saturdays, at 1 o'clock, A. M. immediately after the arrival of the Boston Boat, and connecting with the Night Boats for Boston. She is furnished with a Fire Engine, life Preservers, Cork Matresses, and Four Boats.

One half the Portland and Independence will be reserved for the passengers from the Penobscot, and ample accommodations reserved for those from the Kennebec.

THE NEW AND SUPERIOR STEAMER

Royal Tar,

WILL run weekly between Portland and St. John's N. B., touching at Eastport. She will leave Portland on Fridays, after the arrival of the Portland from Boston, and St. John's on Wednesday afternoon in season to place her passengers in the Independence on Thursday evening.

FARE from Boston to Portland \$3.
" from Boston to Bath \$3 50.
" from Boston to Hallowell \$4.
" from Portland to Bangor \$4.
" from Portland to Eastport \$6.
" from Portland to St. John's \$8.
" from Portland to Bath \$1 50.
" from Portland to Hallowell \$2.
" from Hallowell to Bath \$1.

Deck passing at reduced rates.

Freight received every day for all the above ports.

The Proprietors of the Boats, however, will not be responsible for any Bank Bills, Notes, Drafts, Packages, Trunks, or other articles of value, unless the value is disclosed, a proportionate price paid, and a written receipt taken signed by the Captain or Clerk.

All baggage at the sole risk of the owners thereof. Carriages will be in readiness to take passengers to and from the Macdonough at Hallowell to Augusta and Waterville, on the arrival of the boats, and on the days of her sailing.

Books kept at Steven's, Barker's, Hutchins', Wild's, Johnson & Moor's, Sawtell's Augusta, and Hallowell House, Haskell & Burnham's, Paine's and Pratt's Hallowell.

Apply to CHARLES MOODY, Fore st.
LEONARD BILLINGS, Agent, } Port-
Andrew's wharf, } land,
or to A. H. HOWARD, Agent, Hallowell
May 18.

FOR ONE DAY ONLY.

Menagerie & Circus Combined.



More Attraction than ever.

The managers of these extensive establishments, consisting of more than 100 men and Horses, have united their Companies, and now offer to the public a more substantial bill of fare than has ever been presented. The establishment is completely fitted up for the purpose with two extensive pavillions so connected that the audience can witness both exhibitions at the same time.

CONVENIENT SEATS are prepared for the Ladies and juvenile members of families. Their EQUESTRIAN CORPS is large and comprises the best talent of the country, and their noble and spirited stud of horses is unrivalled for management and beauty.

Among the animals are some of the finest specimens that have ever been imported.

The whole is accompanied by a fine BAND OF Music, and will be exhibited for one charge.

Admission 25 cents—Children under 10 years of age, 12 1-2.

For a particular description of animals and circus performance, see large Bills posted in the Hotels.

The Menagerie and Circus will be exhibited at Winthrop on Saturday the 21st day of May.

Circus performance will positively take place in the afternoon. May 10, 1836.

At a Court of Probate, held at Augusta, on the last Monday of April, A. D. 1836, within and for the County of Kennebec.

A certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of WILLIAM B. SPEAR, late of Wayne, in said County, deceased, having been presented by MOSES WING, Jr. Esq., the Executor therein named for Probate:

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published in the Maine Farmer, printed at Winthrop, in said County, three weeks successively, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Augusta, in said County, on the last Monday of June next at ten o'clock, in the forenoon, and shew cause, if any they have, why the said instrument should not be proved, approved, and allowed as the last will and testament of the said deceased. H. W. FULLER, Judge.

Attest: GEO. ROBINSON, Register.

A true copy, Attest:

GEO. ROBINSON, Register.

Ploughs.

A prime assortment on hand. Also a good one horse WAGON for sale by

HORACE GOULD.

He having obtained Mr. FOGG to work with him will be prepared to attend punctually to Horse Shoeing. The other various branches of Blacksmith work done up right at short notice. He flatters himself that by faithful attention to business he will be able to give perfect satisfaction to those who favor him with their custom.

Winthrop, May 19, 1836.

Blacksmithing.

The subscriber gives notice that he has taken the shop formerly occupied and owned by John A. Pitts, where he intends to carry on the above business in its various branches. He hopes by constant attention to his business, together with dispatch and neatness of workmanship, to merit a liberal share of patronage.

Particular attention will be paid to horse shoeing. EDWARD MILLIKEN.

Winthrop, April 26, 1836.

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Poetry.

Selected for the Maine Farmer.

How bright was my youth's early morn,
Ere reflection had clouded my brow;
I selected the rose from the thorn,
And was happy, I hardly knew how.

I joined in the sport of the plain,
With rapture I heard the blithe song—
When they danced, I was first at the train,
And gayest among the gay throng.

'Tis true my heart oft breathed a sigh,
But it rose from mild pity alone—
If a tear sometime strayed from my eye,
It flowed not for grief of its own.

No sorrow corroded my heart,
No falsehood excited a tear—
For my bosom a stranger to art,
Believed every friend was sincere.

But ah! these fair visions of youth,
Disappointment has closed from my mind,
And the friends whom I fancied all true,
Alas! can be sometimes unkind.

I have seen the bright azure of morn,
With darkness and clouds shadowed o'er,
I have found that the rose has a thorn,
Which wounds when its bloom is no more.

The sigh which from sympathy rose,
Now heaves not for others alone,
And the tear as it silently flows,
Confesses a source of its own.

JOEL.

Miscellany.

Considerations for Young Men.

LETTER XXII.

There are, in some young men, a native stability of character, and a power of conscience, connected with strong desires for respectability and influence, which operate as a safeguard from the temptations to which we alluded. Such cases, however, are few, compared with those who become an easy prey to their seducing influence. Where there is not the fear of God, founded on a thorough change of moral character; where religion does not interpose her shield, and gird the soul with her invincible armor, there are always strong grounds for fear, even when other considerations have for years operated as a protection.

Religion, by giving a distaste to such scenes, affords the surest protection against their influence; and by implanting a relish for spiritual enjoyments, fills up that aching void, to which sensual pleasure makes her most powerful appeal. But religion is a subject at which young persons are accustomed to shrink, as if we had introduced a monster, whose aspect and demeanor were calculated to produce only aversion and terror. A prejudice against the subject early gets hold of the mind, and proves one of the greatest obstacles in the way of instruction.

This prejudice, however, is altogether unwarrantable. Piety has nothing in her appearance so repulsive, nothing in her claims so unreasonable, that you should start at her name, or be frightened by her aspect. She comes from heaven, the purest of regions. She originates with God, the most glorious of beings. "Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Her aspect, instead of being repulsive, is benignant as the mild blush of morning. If her restrictions seem to be severe, it is because they are viewed apart from the pleasures that attend them. If her commands appear unreasonable, it is because they are not listened to with an impartial ear. If her service is thought to demand too many sacrifices, it is when the reward is overlooked, and the crown of glory kept out of view. True, she does impose restrictions; but they are only such as procure respectability, foreclose the heart against vice, and preserve the conscience pure. She also demands sacrifices; but they only subject the sensual to the rational man, and keep the body in due subordination to the soul. While she interdicts unlawful pleasure, she substitutes pure and spiritual joy. If she calls off the supreme affection from a world that is transient and unsatisfying; she fixes it upon one that is fraught with high and permanent delight.

In all this you perceive nothing that is unreasonable, nothing that should prejudice you against religion. It is not perhaps always exhibited by its professors in its most lovely and attractive form; but a moment's reflection will convince you that the fault is not in religion, but in the want of it. Your prejudice proceeds originally from the depravity of your heart. That strong susceptibility to the pleasures and prospects of earth, which we have already considered, is the groundwork of this opposition. You are accustomed to identify happiness with the indulgence of such susceptibility. But religion moderates earthly desires, and requires that the current of your affections should be directed upward. Thus you early begin to consider it as an unwelcome intruder upon your joys. As you have not felt dissatisfaction and disappointments experienced by older and practiced votaries of the world, your fancy is busy with its airy creations, and your heart is indulging anticipations which you are destined never to realize.

You do not wish to be restrained in your pursuits by the sacrifices and self-denial which the gospel enjoins. Hence, you begin to feel towards religion and its teachers, a secret hostility; as if it were their design to destroy your peace, and mar your innocent enjoyments. You stand aloof from their influence. You avoid, as far as possible, coming in direct contact with them. The wider the separation, the more comfortable your feelings. If circumstances narrow down the distance, and you are unexpectedly brought into their presence, you feel a restraint that is irksome, and a dread of their influence, which makes you unhappy. These feelings are a sure indication that you are indulging an opposition of heart, against piety and its professors. That opposition will increase with the increase of years, unless a transforming power from on high shall eradicate it. Should any happy occasion introduce you to some of the friends of religion, whose deportment reciprocally graces, and is graced by, their principles, you would then discover that you had cherished a deep-rooted and unwarrantable prejudice. This often occurs to those whose early education was obtained apart from any influence of religion.

There is another cause of prejudice, to which you may not be insensible. Piety is not always exhibited under the most agreeable aspects. It is professed by persons of all classes and conditions. Of course, many, who take upon them the responsibilities of a Christian profession, must, from circumstances not under their control, appear in a light calculated not to attract, but possibly to prejudice the young. Some of them are in the humblest walks of life. Their language is vulgar, and their garb plain. Their homely phraseology is no indication that religion is coarse; it only proves that they, having been excluded from the advantages of a refined education, have no better medium of conveying their ideas, or of expressing their feelings. Others again are so unnatural in the expression of their piety, and assume, perhaps unconsciously, such a demure and inflexible gravity, accompanied with such a drawling and sanctimonious tone, that the light-hearted youth is disposed to turn away in disgust. He is in danger of identifying religion with these outward expressions of voice and countenance.

There is no religion in whining and cant. Piety produces cheerfulness without levity, and sobriety without sanctimoniousness. Where it has an unrestrained flow upon the soul, it causes a beautiful adjustment of all that is graceful and expressive. The unpleasant, and perhaps to some disgusting, expressions alluded to, should be viewed as the legitimate fruits of ignorance or eccentricity. They form no part of religion. Many of the ardently pious are among the most dignified, polite, and pleasing of mankind. You must ever separate religion from vulgarity; and make due allowance for those incidental anomalies, which she sometimes meets in the humblest orders of society.

To the Wool Growers.

100 lbs. of WOOL TWINE just received and for sale by
JOS. G. MOODY.
Augusta, January 15, 1836.

Wagons for Sale.

The subscriber keeps constantly on hand a prime lot of Wagons.
J. J. MILLIKEN.
Winthrop, May 4, 1836.

Stump Machine.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, feel highly gratified in being able to recommend to the public, a useful and newly invented machine for pulling stumps, and raising rocks from the ground, patented by Leonard Norcross of Dixfield. The machine was in operation near this village when we saw it, and we give it as our opinion, that it is the cheapest, safest and most efficient method of performing such operations, yet discovered. The machine is very simple and cheap, and requires only the power of a horse to pull stumps.

J. B. MARROW,
HENRY FARWELL,
CH'S T. CHASE,
CH'S L. EUSTIS.

Dixfield, Jan. 2, 1836.

The above machine, or rights for farms, towns or Counties may be had at Dixfield, of George and Enos Dillingham, or of the subscriber.

LEONARD NORCROSS.

Leavitt's Rheumatic Liniment.

This Liniment has been in private use for three years, and has never failed of affording relief wherever it has been used, which fact has induced the proprietor to offer it for sale.

All he has to say in favor of it, has been said in the above paragraph, and he now offers it to the public for what it is, in and of itself. If it is of utility, it will stand without recommendation; if not, they will not impart healing virtues.

The above may be obtained of his authorized Agents, by the dozen or single, or of him at the Store of EUSTIS & LEAVITT, Dixfield, Me. and of Traders generally.

Agents.—William C. Mitchell & Co. Corner of Union & Middle Streets, Portland, Maine. Pratt & King, 28, India Street, head of Central Wharf, Boston, Mass. C. LEAVITT, Jr. Proprietor.
For Sale by DAVID STANLEY, Winthrop.

Greenleaf's
Patent Cheese Press.

This Press is a very simple, cheap and efficient contrivance. Its principal advantage is, that its power is progressive—being sufficiently light at first, and increasing as the curd, by becoming more compact, presents a greater resistance. In this respect it is believed to be superior to every other Press now in use. It has been introduced into several of the States, and has everywhere received the approbation of judicious manufacturers of cheese.

Persons wishing to purchase exclusive rights for Counties or towns will please apply to the subscriber, who will give immediate and profitable employment to a number of active trustworthy agents.

MOSES MERRILL,

Joint Proprietor and General Agent.

Andover, Maine, March 10, 1836.

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Notice.

The Copartnership heretofore existing between the subscribers was this day dissolved by mutual consent. The Books and Notes due us are left at the Office of SAMUEL P. BENSON, Esq. who is authorized to settle the same. All persons indebted to us are hereby notified that payment may be made to him until the middle of June next without cost, and we hope they will pay before that time, otherwise they must expect to pay the usual fees of collection.

MOSES FOGG,

JOHN B. SYLVESTER.

Winthrop, April 23, 1836.

Clover Seed.

The subscriber has for sale CLOVER SEED of the growth of the year 1834 and '35, by the cask or retail.

JAMES FILLEBROWN.

Readfield Corner, March 14, 1836.

tf.7.

For Sale or to Let,

The thorough bred Improved Durham Short Horned Bull *Maine Denton*, 6 years old next May, of a pleasant disposition, and a good stock getter.

Also, the Bull *Goldfinder*, 7-8 improved blood, two years old this spring.

Also, the Stallion horse *Boliver*, five years old next May. Said horse is of a good form and size, and is a descendant of the best bloods that have been introduced into this country.

THOMAS PIERCE.

Readfield, March 16, 1836.